



AVOID DUI Task Force Riverside PRESS RELEASE



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CONTACT:
Sergeant Robert Tipre
Riverside Police Department
Phone: 951.351.6046
Email: rtipre@riversideca.gov

The Riverside AVOID DUI Task Force Will Be Out in Full Force to Catch Drunk Drivers *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

As summer winds down, the Riverside AVOID DUI Task Force is ramping up its enforcement efforts as part of a national crackdown on drunk driving. The 18-day, high-visibility campaign, *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*, is a partnership with the California Office of Traffic Safety to curb impaired driving and save lives. August 21-September 7 (Labor Day), law enforcement partners in Riverside County, across the state and nationwide will be aggressively targeting drunk driving. Increased state and national messaging about the dangers of driving impaired, coupled with checkpoints and increased officers on the road, aim to drastically reduce the toll of drunk driving.

In 2013, there were 10,076 people killed in drunk driving crashes, almost a third of all traffic fatalities according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In California, 867 people died in drunk driving collisions according to NHTSA. Thirty-eight percent of crash fatalities on Labor Day weekend that year involved drunk drivers with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of .08 percent or higher. More than a quarter (27 percent) of the crash fatalities that occurred on Labor Day weekend involved drivers with BACs of .15 or higher – almost twice the illegal limit.

The County's DUI Task Force kicks off Friday night by deploying 4 DUI/Driver's License checkpoints during the first weekend along with 7 DUI Saturation Patrols in the cities of Riverside, Moreno Valley, La Quinta, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Desert Hot Springs and Palm Desert. DUI enforcement will continue through Monday, September 7th. ****See the attached Schedule of Operations**** for dates/times/locations throughout the campaign. The California Highway Patrol will deploy all available officers onto freeways and county roads as part of their Maximum Enforcement Period over the three-day holiday weekend.

NHTSA data shows that repeat offenders are an especially dangerous facet of the drunk-driving problem. In the month of August from 2009-2013, of the drunk drivers involved in fatal crashes, almost 1 out of 10 (8 percent) of them had already been convicted of at least one drunk-driving offense.

Law enforcement emphasizes the preventable nature of drunk driving reminding everyone that all it takes is a little planning ahead. Designate a sober driver or call a cab. But whatever you do, *don't drink and drive*. The California Office of Traffic Safety DDVIP (Designated Driver VIP) mobile app is now available for free download on iOS and Android devices. Launched last year, the new DDVIP app offers enhanced features, allowing users to "Map a Spot" with their current location to find DDVIP partnering establishments in their area or a "List of Spots" to search all participating bars and restaurants throughout California. Users will be offered free incentives at each bar to celebrate their life saving role. They can stay up-to-date with the latest from DDVIP and see what other users are saying via its social tab. Also through the app, for those who want to



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imbibe but also make it a point to plan ahead, users can easily order a sober ride from Uber, Lyft or Curb – all from one screen.

Recent statistics reveal that 30 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent). Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol. Everyone should be mindful that if you're taking medication – whether prescription or over-the-counter – drinking even small amounts of alcohol can greatly intensify the impairment affects.

So, this August and year-round, remember that there's no excuse for drunk or impaired driving. If you choose to break the law, police, sheriff and CHP officials will see you before you see them. *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.*

Riverside AVOID DUI Task Force funding is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration who reminds everyone; Report Drunk Drivers! – Call 9-1-1.



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DUI TASK FORCE AUGUST/LABOR DAY HOLIDAY ENFORCEMENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, August 21, 2015

DUI/Driver's License Checkpoints

- Riverside Police Department
- Moreno Valley Police Department

Saturation Patrols

- Riverside Police Department
- Desert Hot Springs Police Department
- Palm Desert Police Department

SATURDAY, August 22, 2015

DUI/Driver's License Checkpoints

- La Quinta Police Department
- Lake Elsinore Police Department
- Menifee Police Department

Saturation Patrols

- Riverside Police Department
- Desert Hot Springs Police Department
- Palm Desert Police Department

SUNDAY, August 23, 2015

Saturation Patrol

- Desert Hot Springs Police Department

WEDNESDAY, August 26, 2015

Warrant – DUI Operation

- Riverside Police Department

FRIDAY, August 28, 2015

DUI/Driver's License Checkpoints

- Palm Springs Police Department
- Desert Hot Springs Police Department

Saturation Patrols

- Riverside Police Department
- Palm Desert Police Department

SATURDAY, August 29, 2015

DUI/Driver's License Checkpoint

- San Jacinto Police Department



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Saturation Patrols

- Riverside Police Department
- Palm Springs Police Department
- Palm Desert Police Department
- Desert Hot Springs Police Department

SUNDAY, August 30, 2015

Saturation Patrol

- Desert Hot Springs Police Department

MONDAY, August 31, 2015

Saturation Patrol

- Riverside Police Department

THURSDAY, September 3, 2015

Warrant – DUI Sweep Operation

- San Jacinto Police Department

FRIDAY, September 4, 2015

Saturation Patrols

- Riverside Police Department
- Desert Hot Springs Police Department
- Palm Desert Police Department

SATURDAY, September 5, 2015

DUI/Driver's License Checkpoint

- Palm Desert Police Department

Saturation Patrols

- Riverside Police Department
- Desert Hot Springs Police Department
- Moreno Valley Police Department

SUNDAY, September 6, 2015

Saturation Patrols

- Riverside Police Department
- Desert Hot Springs Police Department



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